Mobile hospital plan

1691. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's mobile hospital plan, conceived after Gujarat earthquake and super cyclone in Orissa, has not been able to take a concrete shape, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the completion of the plan, indicating the budget earmarked and the time limit fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is procuring a self contained, container based mobile hospital. The Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Ltd. [HSCC(I)], a Government of India Enterprise, the procurement consultant, has invited International Competitive Bids. Subject to the technical evaluation of the bids conforming to the laid down standards, procurement procedures would be initiated by HSCC(I) and commissioning is likely to be completed by the end 2005.

Necessary budget provision has been earmarked in the 10th Plan for this project under the Scheme for Health Sector Disaster Preparedness and Management.

More funds for States for health mission

1692. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have expressed a desire for -« more funds for their health missions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are monitoring such health missions of States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some States have expressed a desire increased Government of India funding to strengthen their primary health infrastructure under the proposed National Rural Health Mission.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The proposal to launch National Rural Health Mission is under the consideration of the Government.

Vaccine potent in sugarbox/crystals

1693. SHRIGIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a break through has reportedly been found in keeping vaccine potent in sugarbox/crystals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) M/s Panacea Biotech Limited have entered into an agreement with M/s Cambridge Biostability Ltd., U.K., for developing a stable vaccine product based on a new technology which mimics a natural phenomenon, wherein some organisms are able to survive in dried-up form for hundred of years (anhydrohiosis). In this technology water within the cell is replaced with a sugar solution the thickens when water is excluded to a point of solidifying as a glass and the organisms dries out. Cells are kept in a state of suspended animation until re-hydration occurs and (the organism-plant, animal or bacteria) returns to life. The process is being applied for first time to vaccines. The vaccine is first spray-dried using the sugar syrup to form microscopic glass spheres. The dry vaccine is then suspended in an approved inert liquid, which can be injected into muscle where bodily fluids reactivates the vaccine. The trial of the vaccine prepared by this process is yet to begin.